(c) and (d) The Department of Company Affairs to whom the matter was referred for investigation is yet to take a final view in the matter.

(e) The requisite information to the extent possible shall be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Betamethasone-DI-Sodium Phosphate by M/s. Glaxo

2633. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Glaxo is purchasing large quantities of Betamethasone and its salts from other parties at a price less than the notified price;

(b) if so, what is the quantity of each purchased from January, 1992 alongwith the source and price, consignment-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that they are purchasing and also converting purchased Betamethasone to Betamethasone-DI-Sodium Phosphate which is exempted from price control;

(d) if so, the quantity converted during the same period;

(e) whether it is a fact that the company is making substantial profits in India and abroad by assisting in getting imported raw materials in this manner; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (f) the required details would be collected and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Production of AZT for Treatment of AIDS

2634. SMT. SATYA BAHIN:
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AZT required for AIDS is being produced in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the companies and the price at which the product is being marketed;

(c) whether it is a fact that the same is being imported, if so, the name of the company and the selling price of each pack of each strength;

(d) whether it is a fact that imported formulation is exempted from excise and custom duty where as indigenous product, both bulk and finished, attracts excise duty;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) what is the comparative price of each strength of imported and indigenous of the drug; and

(g) what steps have been taken to boost indigenous production of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) to the extent information is available, M/s. Cipla has started the production of AZT required for AIDS with the help of technology developed by Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad. However, no licence has been issued by the Govt. for the production of this drug. Regarding pricing, no information is available whether the product has been launched in the market or not.

(c) and (f) The imports of drugs by individual companies is not being monitored by this Ministry.

(d) (e) and (g) The imported formulations are exempt from excise and customs duties. The request for exemption from excise duty for Bulk Drug AZT and its formulations has been received recently,

and after examination the recommendation will be sent to Ministry of Finance.

Import of Formulations by Drug Companies

2635. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of imported formulations being imported by drug companies from their principals and their associates and what are the names of the companies and their principals;

(b) what was the import, in value and quantity, of each, imported by each company during the last three years and at what CIF price;

(c) what are the names of products exempted from custom duty and what is the present selling price of each;

(d) whether any of those products are being manufactured in the country if so, the names of those products and the names of their producers and what is the present selling price of each; and

(e) whether it is a fact that certain products attracts excise duty both on formulations as well as bulk drug, if so, what steps have been taken to accord exemption of excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The imports of formulations by drug companies either from their principals or their associates is not monitored by the Government.

(c) The names of formulations exempted from customs duty are given in the Notification No. 208/Customs dated 22.9.81 as amended from time to time, copy of which is available in the Parliament library. The prices of the imported formulations falling in price controlled category are fixed in accordance with the provisions of DPCO-1987. The number of imported formulations being very large, the effort and time involved in compiling the present selling prices will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

(d) and (e) Whenever the production of any of these imported formulations is started in the country the exemption from excise and customs duty on such imported formulations are suitably adjusted on the request of the manufacturers. The exemption from excise on formulations and bulk drugs is granted from time to time, on merits.

Liabilities due to overcharging of prices

2636. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has directed that those companies, which do not pay their laibilities due to overcharging of prices, their cases would be referred to collector, for realisation of amount due as arrears of Land Revenue;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this direction was floated by the Department;

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the concerned;

(e) what are the details of cases where reference was made to the Collector and what is the final result in each case; and

(f) what are the details of cases where reference is yet to be made and what is the amount involved in each case and what are the reasons for withholding reference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The liabilities have been worked out tentatively against most of the companies. All efforts are being made to compute the final liabilities as